

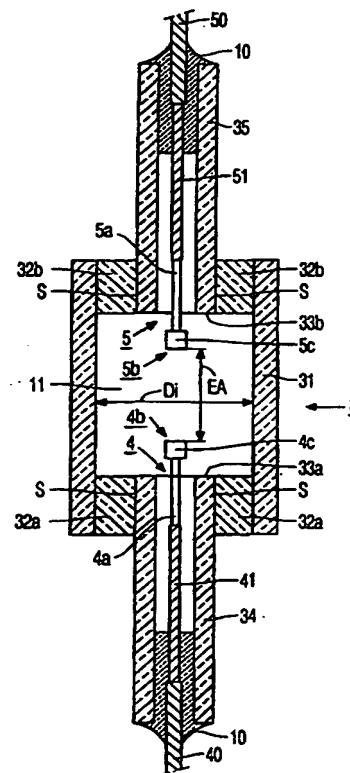


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(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP00/00216 (22) International Filing Date: 10 January 2000 (10.01.00) (30) Priority Data: 99200253.5 28 January 1999 (28.01.99) EP (71) Applicant: KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V. [NL/NL]; Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL). (72) Inventors: KEIJSER, Robertus, A., J.; Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL). ETMAN, Johannes, G. W.; Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL). HERREMANS, Hannelore, M., L., E; Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL). (74) Agent: DUSSELDORP, Jan, C.; Internationaal Octrooibureau B.V., Prof Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL).		(81) Designated States: CN, JP, KR, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i>

(54) Title: METAL HALIDE LAMP**(57) Abstract**

The invention relates to a metal halide lamp intended to be operated on an electronic ballast, comprising a discharge vessel (3) having a ceramic wall enclosing a discharge space (11) which contains an ionizable filling comprising, in addition to Hg, a quantity of Na halide, two electrodes (4, 5) with tips (4b, 5b) being arranged at mutual distance EA, the discharge vessel having an internal diameter Di at least through the distance EA such that the following relation is satisfied: $EA/Di \geq 2.5$ while the lamp has a nominal lamp voltage V_{la} of ≥ 110 V.



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Metal halide lamp.

The invention relates to a metal halide lamp intended to be operated on an electronic ballast, which lamp comprises a discharge vessel having a ceramic wall enclosing a discharge space which contains an ionizable filling comprising, in addition to Hg, a quantity of Na halide, two electrodes with tips being arranged at a mutual distance EA, and the discharge vessel having an internal diameter Di at least through the distance EA.

A lamp of the type described in the opening paragraph is known from WO 97/42650. The known lamp, which has eminent color properties (inter alia, general color rendering index $R_a \geq 80$ and a color temperature T_c of 3000 K), is integrated with the electronic ballast in the form of a switched-mode power supply (smmps) and is thus very suitable as a light source for, inter alia, interior lighting. This lamp is based on the recognition that a good color rendition is possible when Na halide is used as a filling constituent of a lamp and a strong widening and reversal of the Na emission in the Na-D lines occurs during lamp operation. This requires a high temperature of, for example, 1170 K (900°C) of the coldest spot T_{kp} in the discharge vessel. When reversing and widening the Na-D lines, these take the shape of an emission band in the spectrum with two maxima at a mutual distance $\Delta\lambda$.

The requirement for a high value of T_{kp} results in a relatively small discharge vessel, which, in the practical lamp, leads to a wall load of 70 W/cm² measured across the internal surface area of the cylindrical part of the discharge vessel through the distance EA. The required high temperature precludes the use of quartz or quartz glass for the wall of the discharge vessel and necessitates the use of ceramic material for the wall of the discharge vessel.

The ceramic wall in this description and claims is understood to mean both a wall of metal oxide such as, for example, sapphire or densely sintered polycrystalline Al₂O₃, or metal nitride, for example AlN.

The electronic ballast comprises a high-frequency converter which converts, as smmps, the low-frequency power supply of the mains into a high-frequency current through the lamp. In this case, it should be ensured that the high frequency is chosen to be such that it does

not give rise to acoustic resonance phenomena in the lamp. Another, generally used configuration as an smps for high-pressure discharge lamps consists of a concatenation of rectifier means, a preconditioner, a converter and a commutator to which the lamp is connected. The preconditioner is used for generating a DC voltage for power supply of the converter while withdrawing a current which is sinusoidal in a satisfactory approximation from the mains operating as the power supply source. The commutator provides for an, often low-frequency, AC current through the lamp. Both forms of the electronic ballast are designed in such a way that the voltage across the lamp is approximately 90 V in the nominal operating condition of the connected lamp. It is thereby achieved that the relevant electronic ballast is suitable for operating known lamps which are generally designed for operation at a lamp voltage of approximately 90 V and can be operated on a ballast in the form of a ballast coil.

In addition to Na, the filling of the discharge vessel may comprise Tl and/or one of the rare earth metals, with which a desired value for the general color rendering index $R_a \geq 80$ and the color temperature T_c between 2700 K and more than 4200 K is realized. In this description and claims, the elements Y and the lanthanides are considered as rare earth metals. Due to the formation of compounds with O_2 in ceramic discharge vessels based on metal oxide, Sc is not suitable as a filling constituent.

A drawback of the known lamp is that it has a relatively low specific light output. A further drawback of the known lamp is that, also as a result of the relatively small dimensions of the discharge vessel, a relatively rapid blackening of the wall of the discharge vessel occurs, inter alia, due to deposition of evaporated material on the wall of the electrodes, so that the lumen maintenance and hence the practical lifetime of the lamp is influenced very detrimentally.

It is an object of the invention to provide a measure to combat the described drawbacks while maintaining the satisfactory color properties of the lamp. According to the invention, a lamp as described in the opening paragraph is therefore characterized in that the relation $EA/D_i \geq 2$ is satisfied, and in that, during nominal operation of the lamp, a lamp voltage V_{la} satisfying the relation $V_{la} \geq 110$ V is present across the lamp.

In the lamp according to the invention, it has surprisingly been found that a specific light output above 100 lm/W in combination with a value for the general color rendition $R_a > 80$ can be realized. The lamp voltage V_{la} is preferably at most 400 V. Higher

voltages do not lead to a significant improvement of the properties of the lamp but require special efforts for realizing a suitable electronic ballast.

A relatively large electrode distance EA provides the possibility of applying a relatively low wall load, which is favorable for the lifetime of the lamp. During nominal operation, the lamp according to the invention preferably has a wall load W_{la} which satisfies the relation $30 \leq W_{la} < 70$ in W/cm^2 .

In a preferred embodiment of the lamp according to the invention, the discharge vessel also comprises Ce halide. This has the important advantage that a further increase of the specific light output (efficacy) is obtained while maintaining the satisfactory color properties of the light generated by the lamp. In addition to Na, the filling of the discharge vessel may comprise one or more other metals which form halides, inter alia, for influencing the color properties of the lamp, such as Tl, Dy, Ho and Tm, for example, for raising the color temperature. Moreover, an addition of Ca halide is also suitable.

It holds for Hg that, as is customary for metal halide, it is completely in the vapor phase in its operational state and constitutes the most important lamp voltage-determining value. It has also been found that Hg influences the color rendition. Notably for realizing values for the general color rendition $R_a > 80$, a sufficiently high pressure of the Hg appears to be necessary. To prevent a too high lamp voltage V_{la} , on the one hand, and an insufficiently high pressure of the Hg, on the other hand, the ratio EA/D_i is preferably ≤ 5.5 .

These and other aspects of the invention are apparent from and will be elucidated with reference to the embodiment(s) described hereinafter.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 shows a lamp according to the invention,

Fig. 2 is a cross-section of a discharge vessel of the lamp shown in Fig. 1, and Fig. 3 shows the lamp of Fig. 1, connected to an electronic ballast.

Fig. 1 shows a metal halide lamp comprising a discharge vessel 3 shown in a cross-section and not to scale in Fig. 2 and having a ceramic wall enclosing a discharge space 11 which contains an ionizable filling in the lamp shown of not only Hg and a quantity of Na halides but also Tl and Dy and Ce halides. Two electrodes 4, 5 with electrode bars 4a, 5a and tips 4b, 5b are arranged in the discharge space at a mutual distance EA, in the drawing each of W. The discharge vessel has an internal diameter D_i at least through the distance EA. The discharge vessel is sealed at one side by a ceramic projecting plug 34, 35 which tightly

encloses a current feedthrough conductor 40, 41 and 50, 51 with an interspace to the electrodes 4, 5 arranged in the discharge vessel and is connected thereto in a gastight manner by means of a melt-ceramic compound 10 near one end remote from the discharge space. The discharge vessel is enclosed by an outer envelope 1 provided at one end with a lamp cap 2. In the operational state of the lamp, a discharge extends between the electrodes 4, 5. Electrode 4 is connected via a current conductor 8 to a first electric contact which forms part of the lamp cap 2. Electrode 5 is connected via a current conductor 9 to a second electric contact which forms part of the lamp cap 2. The metal halide lamp shown is intended to be operated on an electronic ballast as is shown in Fig. 3. The lamp indicated by L in Fig. 3 is connected by means of electric contacts of lamp cap 2 to connection points C, D of a commutator III, for example, a bridge circuit. A, B denote input terminals of the ballast and are intended for connection to a power supply source, for example, a mains of 220 V, 50 Hz. In the ballast, I denotes rectifier means and a preconditioner for generating a DC voltage for power supply of a converter II. Very suitable as a preconditioner is, for example, an up-converter or boost converter for withdrawing a current, which is sinusoidal in a good approximation, from the mains operating as the power supply source. A suitable example of a converter is a down-converter or a Buck converter. Another type of circuit which is usable as a converter II is a flyback converter. During nominal operation of the lamp shown, a lamp voltage V_{la} satisfying the relation $V_{la} \geq 110$ V is present across the lamp. The lamp voltage is measurable between the electric contacts which form part of the lamp cap 2 and, in a good approximation, corresponds to the voltage between the electrode tips 4b, 5b.

In a first, practical embodiment of lamps according to the invention and as shown in the drawings, the nominal power of the lamp is 39 W. The translucent wall of the discharge vessel has a thickness of 0.8 mm. The ionizable filling of the lamp comprises, in addition to Hg, 5.5 mg of Na+Tl+Dy+Ce iodide with a composition of 85.3; 3.6; 4.8 and 6.3 in mol%. Moreover, the discharge vessel comprises Ar as a starter with a filling pressure of 400 mbar. Table I states further data and results. For lamp Prototype 1 the Hg filling amount is 2.1 mg and for lamp Prototype 2 it is 2.5 mg.

Table I

Pro tot type	Hg $\mu\text{g}/\text{mm}^3$	Di(mm)	EA (m m)	EA/Di	V_{la} (V)	$\Delta\lambda$ (nm)	Efficacy (lm/W)	Ra	T_c (K)	T_{kp} (K)	W_{bel} (W/c m^2)
1	30	3	8	2.67	150	7.5	107	88	2940	1300	51
2	25.5	3	12	4	200	5.3	115	82	2930	1280	35

In a second practical embodiment of lamps according to the invention, the nominal power of the lamps is 75 W. Table II states the data and results of these lamps.

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Table II

Pro to Ty pe	Hg $\mu\text{g}/\text{mm}^3$	Di (m m)	EA (mm)	EA/ Di	V_{la} (V)	$\Delta\lambda$ (n m)	Efficacy (lm/W)	Ra	T_c (K)	T_{kp} (K)	W_{bel} (W/ cm^2)
1	24.5	4	12	3	205	4.3	118	87	2940	1330	50
2	24	4	15	3.75	245	3.2	117	85	2960	1295	40
3	25	4	9	2.25	175	5.3	110	91	2950	1345	66

In a further practical embodiment of a lamp according to the invention, the filling of the discharge vessel comprises 5.75 mg of Na, Tl, Dy, Ce iodide in a weight ratio of 64.3; 6.0; 13.1 and 16.5. The nominal power of the lamp is 75 W. The electrode distance EA is 12 mm, the internal diameter is 4 mm which corresponds to a wall load W_{bel} of 49.7 W/cm² in the operational state. During operation, a Hg pressure of 35 bar prevails in the discharge vessel

and the lamp voltage V_{la} is 232 V. The lamp having a specific light output value of 109 lm/W emits light at a color temperature T_c of 2800 K with a value of 90 for the general color rendering index R_a .

For a comparable lamp, the values of EA and Di are 9 mm and 4.5 mm, respectively, the Hg pressure during operation is 43 bar and the lamp voltage V_{la} is 202 V. The specific light output values, T_c and R_a of this lamp are 106 lm/W, 3050 K and 93, respectively. In this case, the wall load W_{la} is 59 W/cm². For a lamp with a discharge vessel of the same construction, the Hg pressure during operation is 31 bar. The lamp operated in a vertical position has a lamp voltage of 147 V, a specific light output of 115 lm/W, a color temperature T_c of 3670 K of the emitted light and an R_a value of 82.

In a further practical embodiment of the lamp according to the invention, the nominal power of the lamp is 39 W. The electrode distance EA is 8 mm, the internal diameter Di is 3 mm. In addition to Hg with a pressure of 31 bar in the operational state, the filling of the discharge vessel comprises 5.7 mg of Na, Ca, Ce, Dy - iodides in a mol% of 47; 39.2; 7.7; 6.1. For a 100-hour lifetime of the lamp, lamp properties were measured with the following results: lamp voltage V_{la} 174 V; specific light output 106 lm/W; color temperature T_c 3965 K; general color rendering index R_a 89. After a lifetime of 1000 hours, these measured values were 178 V; 101 lm/W; 3801 K; 87, respectively.

A further practical lamp of a corresponding construction and nominal power is provided with 1 mg of Hg and 5.6 mg of Na, Ca, Ce, Dy iodide in a mol% of 45.2; 37.7; 11.2; 5.9. The lamp voltage for lifetimes of 100 hours and 1000 hours was 150 V and 153 V, respectively. The value of the specific light output was 106 lm/W and 102 lm/W, respectively. The associated values for the color temperature T_c and the general color rendering index R_a were 4648 K and 84, and 4569 K and 84, respectively.

CLAIMS

1. A metal halide lamp intended to be operated on an electronic ballast, which lamp comprises a discharge vessel having a ceramic wall enclosing a discharge space which contains an ionizable filling comprising, in addition to Hg, a quantity of Na halide, two electrodes with tips being arranged at a mutual distance EA, and the discharge vessel having
5 an internal diameter Di at least through the distance EA, characterized in that the relation $EA/Di \geq 2$ is satisfied and in that, during nominal operation of the lamp, a lamp voltage V_{la} satisfying the relation $V_{la} \geq 110$ V is present across the lamp.
2. A lamp as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the lamp voltage V_{la} is at
10 most 400 V.
3. A lamp as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that, during nominal operation, it has a wall load W_{la} which satisfies the relation $30 \leq W_{la} < 70$ in W/cm².
- 15 4. A lamp as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, characterized in that the ratio EA/Di is preferably ≤ 5.5 .
5. A lamp as claimed in claim 1, 2, 3 or 4, characterized in that the discharge vessel also comprises Ce halide.

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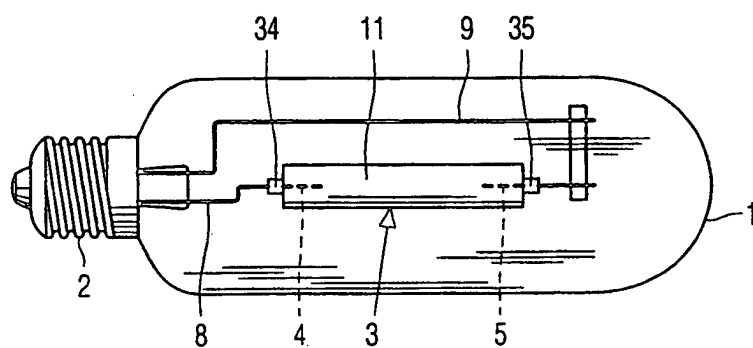


FIG. 1

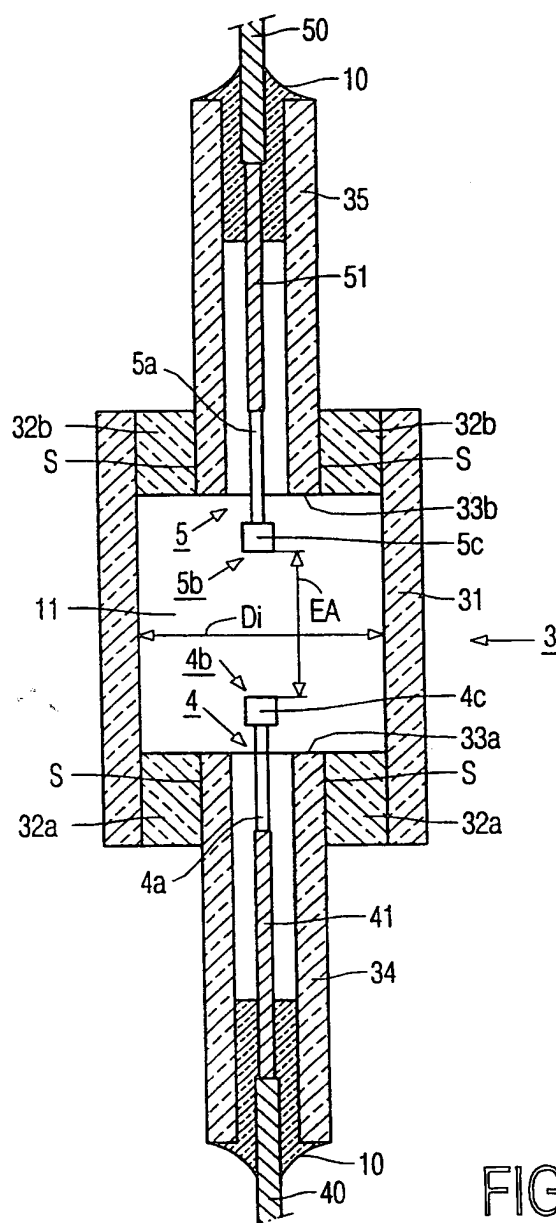


FIG. 2

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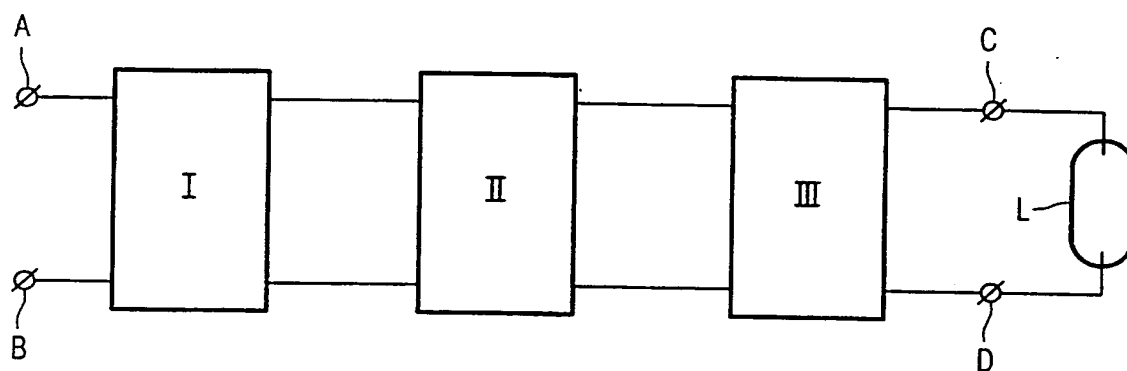


FIG. 3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Intern. Application No

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 H01J61/82

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 H01J

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 98 25294 A (PHILIPS ELECTRONICS NV ;PHILIPS NORDEN AB (SE)) 11 June 1998 (1998-06-11) abstract; claims 1,2; figure 2 page 4, line 25 - line 28 page 7, line 12 - line 13 page 7, line 27 - line 34	1-5
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

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